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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF BOW,

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1871.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The amount of taxes assessed in the town of Bow for the year 1870,.....	$5,889 06

RECEIPTS.

Received balance in hands of Treasurer, as appears on settlement, March 1, 1870.....	110 93
Received hired money.....	5,183 89
Received hired money of Aaron Colby, 2d, in full for taxes committed to him to collect for 1869	89 15
Received of Aaron Colby, 2d, interest on taxes for 1869	14 60
Received of Meshach Cate, Collector of taxes in full for the year, 1868..	52 53
Received of State Treasurer, Savings Bank tax.....	1,069 38
Railroad tax.....	445 82
Literary Fund.....	49 59
Received of Meshach Cate, interest on taxes for 1868,	22 17
" Aaron Colby, 2d, Collector for 1870....	5,788 89
" H. H. Parker, for Buntin Place for 1870,	10 00
" County of Merrimack, for paupers	71 30
" B. Clough, for use of town-house.....	15 00
" Enoch Alexander..... ...	3 07
	$12,926 52

EXPENDITURES.

Paid J. B. Green, abatement on taxes for 1867.....	1 86
Aaron Colby, 2d, abatement on taxes for 1869,	25 88
Meshach Cate, 1868.....	26 49
Aaron Colby, 2d, 1870,.....	44 25
County of Merrimack county tax for 1870.....	872 64
S. A. Sargent, for labor on bridges in District No. 12.....	383 46
J. Brown, 2d, for lumber and labor on bridges in District No. 14.....	82 64
State tax for 1870.....	1,776 00

C. C. Pearson, for printing report for 1870.....	32 00
Dr. T. Haynes, for professional service.....	68 00
Dr. S. L. F. Simpson, for professional services,	48 50
Dr. S. L. F. Simpson, registration of births and deaths.....	1 50
Dr. H. Gage, registration of births and deaths,	1 00
Dr. H. Gage, professional services.....	4 25
J. C. Hammond, services as Town Clerk.....	18 00
Charles Barker.....	2 00
E. Alexander, services as Town Treasurer.....	12 00
F. W. Colby, Superintendent School Committee	42 00
A. Colby, 2d, for collecting taxes for 1870.....	70 00
E. Alexander, use of money	3 00
labor on highways.....	152 40
receipts for non-resident highway tax.....	100 77
land for highway in Dist. No. 4.....	106 90
for support of schools.....	827 91
for support of paupers.....	783 83
on notes and interest.....	7,216 23
Asa Morgan, for services as Selectman and money paid out.....	124 27
S. A. Sargent, for services as Selectman.....	58 54
S. Morgan, for services as Selectman.....	37 00
J. Green and Wm. P. Short, Auditors.....	3 00
	$12,926 32

OUTSTANDING NOTES AGAINST THE TOWN.

Principal.....	$11,741 73	
Amount due.....		$13,902 32
Due B. W. Sanborn.....		24 77
		$13,927 09

DEBTS DUE THE TOWN.

Due from the United States for bounties.....	$1,226 00
James Mills.....	38 18
Aaron Colby, 2d, Collector for 1870.....	100 17
Aaron Colby, 2d, interest on taxes.....	8 55
	$1,372 90

Amount of liabilities	$13,927 09
Amount due the town	1,372 90
	$12,554 19

ASA MORGAN,
SAMUEL A. SARGENT,
SETH MORGAN,
} *Selectmen of Bow.*

The undersigned auditors of the Selectmen's accounts for the year ending March 1, 1871, certify that we have examined said accounts, and find them correctly cast and well vouched.

WILLIAM P. SHORT,
JAMES GREEN,
} *Auditors.*

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Fellow-citizens :—Your committee would beg leave to present the following report:

DISTRICT No. 1.

Both terms, Summer and Winter, taught by Miss Hannah W. Heath of this town. Miss Heath has had considerable experience as a teacher, and has been too often mentioned in similar reports to need special comment here. We saw no reason why this school would not compare favorably with previous efforts. At the time of writing, the winter school is still in session, and not having the register, cannot report statistics.

DISTRICT No. 2.

One term of 12 week by same teacher. Remarks made in regard to District No. 1 will apply to this. Whole number of scholars 14. Average attendance, 12.

DISTRICT No. 3.

One term of 12 weeks taught by Miss Julia A. Gault of this town. This school appeared well when we saw it, but owing to some accident or delay, did not receive notice of the close until

nearly a fortnight afterwards, therefore cannot speak definitely in regard to progress made. Whole number different scholars, 13. Average attendance, 7.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Summer term of 8 weeks, taught by Miss Mary E. Page of this town. The teacher evidently labored for the advancement of her pupils and we think with a good degree of success. Number of scholars, 10. Average not given.

Winter term of 10 weeks, taught by Miss Mary E. Smith of Salisbury. Miss Smith is a teacher of some experience, and while possessing many of the qualifications of the good teacher, we should have been glad to have seen a little more energy and force of character manifest in some directions. The school taken as a whole might, perhaps, be termed passable. Whole number of scholars, 8. Average, 6.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Both terms, Summer and Winter, taught by Miss Georgia W. Head of Hooksett. This was Miss Head's first attempt at teaching. Well qualified for the work, she labored earnestly and faithfully and with good success. This was a good school. Number of weeks in summer, 8. Number of scholars, 8. Average, 6. Number of weeks in winter, 9. Average attendance, 13.

DISTRICT No. 6.

One term of 11 weeks, kept by Miss Jennie S. Webster of Pembroke. Miss Webster had taught one or two schools in other places before coming to this district, and appeared to be qualified for the position; but upon trial in the school room, she seemed deficient in some of the common things as they are sometimes called. Especially was that the case in arithmetic. Her method of teaching in that branch had the merit of novelty, at any rate, and originality also, for we think nobody else ever saw or heard anything like it. There was also a lack of interest to some extent on the part of both teacher and scholars.

Not being present at the close of term, cannot speak particularly of the progress made. Whole number different scholars, 9. Average attendance, 7.

DISTRICT No. 7.

Summer term of 8 weeks, taught by Miss Lizzie M. Dunclee of this town. This school though small appeared well. The teacher labored as we think for the interests of the school. Our impressions at the close of the term were favorable. Whole number of scholars 11. Average attendance, 9.

Winter term of 8 weeks, taught by Mr. John P. Brown of this town. Mr. Brown evidently labored earnestly to advance the school under his care, and also succeeded in awakening and retaining a good degree of interest on the part of the scholars. The improvement in the studies pursued was good. Whole number different scholars 14. Average, 11.

DISTRICT No. 8.

Summer term of 8 weeks taught by Miss A. A. Locke of East Concord. Winter term 8 weeks taught by Miss Belle Austin of Hooksett. Both excellent teachers. The appearance and improvement of the school during the year were highly creditable to all concerned, and worthy of imitation. Whole number of scholars in summer, 11. Average 10. Number in winter 14. Average 13.

DISTRICT No. 9.

One term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Aura P. Robinson of Pembroke. In this school the teacher seemed to labor for the improvement of her scholars, and we think with good results; great things cannot be expected with only 8 weeks of school during a whole year. Whole number scholars 16. Average 14.

DISTRICT No. 10.

Summer school of 8 weeks taught by Miss Annie W. Goodhue of this town. Winter term of 11 weeks taught by Miss

Lizzie C. Colby, both teachers of considerable experience and and well known to the people of this and other districts in the town. I should think the school during the year would compare favorably with previous terms kept by the same teachers. Whole number different scholars in Summer, 28. Average attendance, 18. Whole number of scholars in Winter, 25. Average, 19.

DISTRICT No. 11.

Summer term of 7 weeks taught by Miss Mary Wheeler of New York. Miss Wheeler claimed to be a teacher of considerable experience in her own state, having taught, as she reports in her register, 112 months of school before this term. Not being acquainted with the text books in use here, and her method of teaching being different from that to which the scholars were accustomed, it was somewhat difficult for the teacher and her pupils to understand each other as well as we could wish; yet we think some progress was made. Whole number scholars 17. Average not given. Winter school of 13 weeks taught by Miss Annie W. Goodhue of this town. This seemed a pleasant school; the teacher evidently labored hard, and we think had the co-operation of her scholars. Whole number of scholars 22. Average 17.

DISTRICT No. 12.

One term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Thera J. Wheeler of this town. This was a good school; both teacher and scholars seemed disposed to make the best improvement of the time they could, and the results were creditable to all concerned.

DISTRICT No. 13.

Summer term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Ellen T. Dunklee of Concord. Miss Dunklee is a fine scholar, and probably accomplished as much as could reasonably be expected with a school numbering 5 scholars. The scholars were quiet and orderly and seemed interested in their studies. Winter school of 9 weeks

taught by Miss Mary C. Heath of this town. The remarks made in regard to the Summer school will apply to this. Whole number scholars 7. Average 5.

DISTRICT No. 14.

One term of 14 weeks taught by Miss Laura A. Clough of this town. This school at the commencement of the term was in a loose, uncultivated state, with but little disposition to study, and not much regard for order on the part of many of the scholars; but after a few weeks of exhausting and trying hard work on the part of the teacher, things gradually assumed a better shape. The closing examination gave evidence of very decided improvement in study and also in manners. We think there was evidence of an increase of interest on the part of the citizens of the district which had a good effect upon the school. Whole number scholars 24. Average 19.

Before closing we would say that taken as a whole, the schools for the past year would compare favorably with those of previous years; while something has been accomplished in the way of progress and improvement, much yet remains to be done before our common schools shall attain that high position which they ought. Under the present arrangement of districts and school-houses, or rather the want of school-houses, we lose much of the benefit of the school money; the best plan would probably be to re-district the town. The formation of new districts and location of school buildings should be done with care, and the best possible under the circumstances. The only change in text books during the year has been the introduction of Willson's readers and spellers in a large part of the schools in town. We regard them as an excellent series of readers, and where rightly taught and understood, cannot fail of producing good results. The number of visits made by Superintending School Committee, 35; by citizens and others, 230. About the same general course of study has been pursued as in former years, and about the same proportion of scholars in each branch.

Great care should be exercised in our school meetings in the

choice of prudential committees ;. for upon them the choice of teacher depends, and to a great extent the kind of school you are to have for the time being. It is a common idea to think that almost anything will do for a teacher in a school of five or six small scholars, especially if they will keep cheap ; that this is a serious mistake, experience has often demonstrated. In short, greater diligence is needed and more interest should be manifested by all citizens in the prosperity of our common schools,—something of the same interest and attentic n that people give to the every-day business of life. When people do this, we may expect to see our schools reach a higher standard of excellence than at present. As another has well said, "Do not overlook the interests of the common schools. Do not underrate them ; you cannot over-estimate them." "Give diligence" to make them what they should be.

Respectfully submitted,

F. W. COLBY, *Superintendent School Committee.*

Bow, March 1, 1871.

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